

BENTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. BOX 327
VINTON, IA 52359

PERCOLATION TEST DATA FORM

NAME OF OWNER _____ DAY PHONE _____

SITE ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PERCOLATION TEST CONTRACTOR _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE LOCATION:

SECTION _____ TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ LOT # _____

ADDITION _____ TOWNSHIP NAME _____

PERCOLATION TEST INSTRUCTIONS

Percolation tests are required before any lateral field is installed. Tests may only be performed by an approved contractor of the applicants choice. The following procedure must be followed for performing all percolation tests:

1. A minimum of three test holes are required in the proposed lateral field area.
2. Percolation test holes shall be 4 to 12 inches in diameter and the same depth as the proposed absorption trenches (recommended depth is 24 to 36 inches).
3. Rough all sides and bottoms of the test holes to create a natural surface. Remove all loose material from each hole.
4. Fill each hole with at least 12 inches of water being careful not to disturb the roughed sides of the hole. Maintain the depth for a minimum of 4 hours if clay soil is present. It is extremely important to presoak each hole as recommended in order to obtain accurate results
5. In sandy soils with little or no clay, soaking is not necessary. If, after filling the hole twice with 12 inches of water, the water seeps completely away in less than 10 minutes, the percolation test can be performed immediately.
6. With the exclusion of sandy soils, percolation testing should be done at least 15 hours but no more than 30 hours after the presoaking period began. First, remove any soil which sloughed into the hole during presoaking. Next, add 2 inches of clean gravel to each hole and adjust the water level to 6 inches above the gravel (8 inches from the bottom of the hole). Do not allow the water level to be any higher than 6 inches above the gravel at any time during the test.
7. Immediately measure and record the starting water level from the top of each hole. Each measurement should be made from a fixed point (e.g. surface level) at 30 minutes intervals.
8. The test is continued until the rate stabilizes and 2 successive water level drops do not vary by more than ¼ inch. At least three measurements are made.
9. After each measurement, the water level is to be readjusted to the initial 6 inch level.
10. In sandy soil in which the first 6 inches of water added after the the presoaking period seeps away in less than 30 minutes, measurements are made every 10 minutes for 1 hour.
11. An additional 6 foot hole must be dug in the center of the test area. It is preferred that this hole be dug prior to the test holes. Note on the percolation test form if water or bedrock was encountered and at what depth.
12. Record all results in the table on the reverse side of this sheet and submit with the application for permit, and the permit fee.

